

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089084

STADIS//////////

ING REPEAT GENEVA 2508 ACTION SECST

ATE INFO

ANKARA 24 -APR.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 2508

STADIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU, UN

SUBJ: TURKISH OPIUM BAN

REF: GENEVA 2303

1. MARTENS HAS GIVEN MISOFF FOLLOWING RUNDOWN ON HIS
VISIT TO TURKEY. SAID HE SAW SYG OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
AND DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. RECONFIRMED THAT
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PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT HAD BEEN NOT ONLY IDRECTLY TO OBTAIN

INFO RE TUR-
KISH POSITION CONCERNING OPIUM BAN BUT ALSO
TO CONVEY HIS CONCERN THAT ANY LIFTING OF BAN WOULD
ADVERSELY AFFECT UN DRUG CONTROL PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT
THE WORLD, PARTICULARLY SINCE BECAUSE OF BAN TURKEY HAS
BEEN HELD UP AS A KIND OF MODEL. SAID HE SPOKE FREELY,
EMPHASIZING LATTER CONCERN AND NOTING THAT TURKISH
DECISION RESCIND BAN WOULD HAVE UNFORTUNATE EFFECT OF
KINDLING INTEREST ALREADY EXPRESSED BY CERTAIN PROBLEM
COUNTRIES IN PRODUCING OPIUM FOR EXPORT, NOTABLY,
AFGHANISTAN, THAILAND AND PAKISTAN.

2. RE CURRENT STATUS OF BAN, MARTENS SAID HE WAS TOLD
THAT NO SPRING POPPY PLANTING HAD BEEN PERMITTED, THAT

CTION HAD BEEN TAKEN PROTECT SEEDS, THUT GOT NOW
EXAMINING ITS POSITION IN DEPTH BUT NO DECISION YET
TAKEN AS TO WHETHER LIFT BAN OR NOT. ADDED TURKISH
AUTHORITIES STRESSED THAT DECISION IMPOSE BAN HAD BEEN
TAKEN HASTILY BY UNDEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND WITHOUT
ADEQUATE PLANNING. AS RESULT THERE HAD BEEN SEVERE HARD-
SHIP ON PEASANTS, MANY OF WHOM HAD RECEIVED NO COMPENSATION.
NOTED THAT DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAD EMPHASIZED
THAT POPPY-GROWING REGIONS CONCERNED HAD VERY POOR SOIL,
SO MUCH SO THAT AMERICAN EXPERT WEST HAD CONCLUDED THAT
ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF INCOME COULD NOT BE
PROVIDED AND THAT SOME SHIFT OF POPULATION TO OTHER PARTS
OF TURKEY WOULD BE REQUIRED.

3. MARTENS NOTED THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES HAD EXPRESSED
INTEREST IN ENLARGING CONTACTS WITH UNFAC/DND. MENTIONED
THAT SPECIAL POINT WAS MADE OF TURKEY'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE
COOPERATE IN UN COORDINATED RESEARCH PROGRAM ON PAPAVER
BRACTEATUM. SAID HE WAS INTRODUCED TO SCIENTISTS
CHOSEN TO TAKE OVER FROM PROFESSOR TARIMAN WHO RECENTLY
KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. WAS TOLD THAT TARIMAN HAD
PLAYED CARDS CLOSE TO HIS CHEST AND LEFT HIS MATERIALS
IN DISARRAY, AND THEREFORE TURKISH SCIENTISTS KNOW
LITTLE ABOUT BRACTEATUM PROGRAM. MARTENS SAID HE
AGREED PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE MATERIALS AND TO ARRANGE
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FOR TARIMAN'S SUCCESSOR TO VISIT GENEVA/ELSEWHERE
SO THAT HE CAN READ HIMSELF INTO PROGRAM AS QUICKLY AS
POSSIBLE. (IN RESPONSE MISSOFF'S COMMENT, MARTENS
SAID THAT UN LABORATORY EXPECTS BE ABLE ASSESS ABUSE
POTENTIAL OF BRACTEATUM BY 1975, BUT NOTED THAT IN ANY
EVENT KNOWLEDGEABLE CHEMISTS WITH WHOM HE HAS DISCUSSED
MATTER CONSIDER THAT EXTRACTION OF BENTLEY COMPOUNDS
IS VERY DIFFICULT.) MARTENS MENTIONED THAT TURKS ALSO

EXPRESSED WISH HAVE DND'S CENTRAL TRAINING UNIT UNDER-TAKE TRAINING OF TURKISH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, TO WHICH HE RESPONDED THAT CTU WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO EXPANDING TURKISH PARTICIPATION IN ITS ACTIVITIES IF COT MADE FORMAL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE.

4. MARTENS NOTED HE CONSIDERS HIS TRIP TO TURKEY TO HAVE BEEN USEFUL AND REITERATED IT WAS NECESSARY FOR DND OBTAIN INFO ON BAN SITUATION DPRECTLY FROM TURKISH AUTHORITIES. COMMENTED THAT EVEN IF DRUG CONTROL PROGRAM IN TURKEY HAD BEEN CONDUCTED ON BILATERAL BASIS, TWO GOVTS CONCERNED SHOULD HAVE MADE GREATER EFFORT VOLUNTARILY KEEP UN INFORMED ON DEVELOPMENTS. MISOFF NOTED THAT MARTENS HAD BEEN KEPT GENERALLY INFORMED AS TO STATUS OF SITUATION IN TURKEY AND ASKED WHAT KIND OF INFO HE HAD IN MIND. HE REPLIED THAT IT WOULD HAVE BEEN USEFUL FOR DND TO HAVE BEEN KEPT CURRENTLY ADVISED IN DETAIL ON TECHNICAL EFFORTS KNDE TAKEN TO MOUNT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AND OFFSET ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS FROM BAN SO THAT THIS COULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY UN IN CONNECTION PLANNING ITS PROGRAMS.DALE UNQUOTE RUSH

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